

THE REDLAKE

NUMBER 4

AUTUMN 2008

CHAPEL LAWN'S SUMMER OF FUN

Village BBQ

The icy wind was blowing down the valley. The snowy clouds were scudding across the sky trying to hide behind the nearest hill. The brave villagers, huddled at the tables and wrapped in winter clothing, were warming themselves with hot beef burgers and sausages. Lettuce was blowing around the field and the even in the hall it was hard not to feel the bite of the cruel north westerly!

It was 20th July and the day of the village BBQ hosted by the Chapel Lawn WI. After beef burgers and hot dogs there was a fantastic array of puddings to pig out on. Kim and Sheila provided a bar and all the clubs and societies and businesses in the village had something to say or display. Patrick and James provided games and challenges, notably James' reverse-steer bike. Thank you to all the WI members who put in so much hard work to provide us with a great afternoon.

Village Walk

14th September was the day of the village walk and lunch. The weather was misty, but bright and ideal for walking. The lunch was extensive and delicious and the hall was packed with hungry walkers (and non-walkers). There were too many for our Village Hall, so some people spilled outside to eat 'al fresco'. We were so grateful that for once it wasn't raining, but then I've been told that it is always fine for the Village Walk! As usual, thanks must go to Beryl and her team of helpers; cooks, servers, washer-uppers, bar-tenders and raffle-ticket sellers. Just over £900 was raised for the Church.

Arts Alive

Through Arts Alive, we had a wonderful evening on 25th September when the Village Hall was turned into a French street café thanks to Piaffinité. Djamila, a French singer with a gorgeous voice and some amusing quips and Basil Bunelik, her accordionist, entertained us with a programme of Edith Piaf songs, both familiar and not so well known. Thanks again to Kim and Sheila for providing a bar and choc-ices.

Becky Whitton

Macmillan Cancer Support

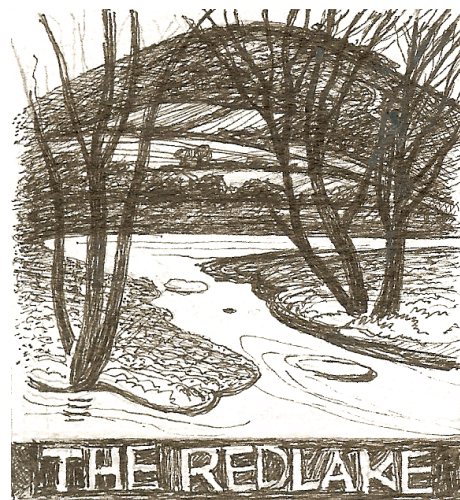
Chapel Lawn WI held a coffee evening on 26th September and raised £330 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Fifty people attended and many donations were received.

The usual stalls and raffle were in place. Tombola, manned by Helena; cakes and produce by Vera Price, Catherine and Michaela (The Pentre Musketeers); not forgetting 'Barry's Books' and Beryl's raffle. Thelma made sure we all paid and Jane, Madam President, made the coffee.

Our local artisans also supported the event: The Arnolds sold their cards (an ideal way to have your own mini art collection); the Jamesons were out in force selling garden ornaments, beautifully turned pepper mills, pictures and cards; Marietta's fabulous felt work and Hopper's 'Hazel Creations' (always a pleasure to see Hopper in Chapel Lawn). Also there were Hannah's plants plus a special treat - signed copies of Hannah's book 'The Essence of the Garden'.

The WI would like to thank everyone for their help and support.

Pauline Terry



RedEarth Concert

On 30th August, a charity concert of music and song was enjoyed by an audience of 60 people at the home of John and Margaret Davis in Knighton. Di Cosgrove is one of the founders of RedEarth Education, a recently formed charity that develops good practice in teaching and learning for primary teachers in rural north-west Uganda. Becky Whitton (mezzo-soprano) and John Bowen (piano and organ), performed pieces from Finzi to Fats Waller. There was an interval for tea and cakes on the lawn. Donations amounted to £370 and the organisers would like to thank everyone's generosity. For more information on RedEarth, contact Di on 01547 530347 or visit www.redeartheducation.co.uk

Harvest supper

Lovely service with a sermon on the farming year and the difficulties experienced by our own people with the weather and prices.

35 people joined our service including three young children. People caught up with the news during supper at the back of the Church, provided by the ladies of the congregation.

THE REDLAKE is published by The Redlake Valley Hall Committee and neither the committee nor the editors can accept responsibility for any opinions expressed by contributors in these pages. The editorial team reserves the right to edit contributions as it believes appropriate. The Redlake is funded by grants and donations and it is our policy not to accept paid advertising due to restraints on space.

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Profile**Ann & Graham Arnold**

Chapel Lawn is an area rich in creative and talented people. None more so than Graham and Anne Arnold, two artists of national standing who have made the Redlake Valley their home for the last 22 years.

Ann, who was born in Newcastle, but moved to Surrey aged two, gave early indication that she was going to have an interesting life. At six months old she sailed to New York with her parents, on the maiden voyage of the Queen Mary, her father having designed the propellers. Sadly, at thirteen Ann developed TB and except for a short break when she enrolled secretly and briefly at an art college, spent the next six years of her life in hospitals and sanatoriums. At nineteen she was well enough to go to Epsom Art College. On graduation she was asked to teach painting at an inspirational place called the Burgh Heath Centre, which used the arts to help young people aged from three to twenty three with emotional and behavioural difficulties. A course was devised for her to translate teaching into therapy. She later helped establish the National Association of Art Therapists. On midsummer's day 1960 Ann was invited to a party...

Graham was born in South London. He was the only one of five children to share his father's great interest in art and was taught by him to draw and paint. During the war their house was bombed and Graham (7) and his sister Penny (4) were evacuated to Hay on Wye where they were taken in by a local headmaster who was "horrible" to them. Little Penny cried constantly and

Graham eventually wrote to his mother saying if she didn't rescue them he was going to walk back home to London with Penny. Needless to say his mother arrived hot foot with the younger children and set up home in Hay. The rent, Graham remembers, was three and sixpence (seventeen and a half pence) a week. They moved to North London before the end of the war where they still faced nasty experiences with flying bombs. The move back ensured that Graham, then about twelve, could continue his art studies alongside his other education. Eventually he went to Beckenham Art College until his call up for National Service. He was posted to Korea - but never made it. In Singapore he - and only he - was ordered to disembark. He was directed to a group of marquees, each with about 500 camp beds in and told to take his pick. He was the only resident! No orders came, Graham was at a complete loose end until he was offered the post of art teacher at a boarding school for children of service personnel. The job had become vacant suddenly as the previous incumbent had been carried off in a straight jacket!

After National Service Graham entered the Royal College of Art, where he spent three years studying. He won a scholarship to work and study in Italy. He returned with 40 completed paintings. He was offered a studio and lodging at Digswell House, an arts and crafts community, which undertook much of the creative work required for the new Garden Cities. Some of the stained glass for the new Coventry Cathedral was also being made there. An exhibition was held of his 40 Italian pictures and all but one were bought by the Garden Cities' Corporations. He continued to work at Digswell, then on midsummer's day 1960 Graham was invited to a party...

Yes, it was the same party. Graham and Ann met... and the rest is history. Within a few months they were married, they lived at Digswell House in Herts for 3 years before moving to Ashington, a village in Sussex. They both commuted to Surrey where Graham was a Senior Lecturer at Kingston Poly and Ann an Art Therapist at the Burgh Heath Centre in

Epsom. As time went by they increasingly wanted to make painting the centre of their lives and also to live more simply. So they sold their house, gave up all visible means of support and were eager to earn their living solely by painting.

They moved to Devizes (downsizing to mortgage free). There, together with friends old and new, they formed an exhibiting group of 7 artists and called themselves the Ruralists. With the good will of people in the area they became established and painted and exhibited widely at venues ranging from the Royal Academy to a washhouse in Devon! The BBC made an hour-long film about the group for the arts programme Arena.

In 1985 Graham had to have an operation and was told he could not drive for three months, and then for no further than 100 miles. Friends suggested they explore the Clun area - just within the limit! They stayed in Clun and one day turned into the Chapel Lawn road from New Invention. Ann, who had always wanted to live in a place where she could walk out of the door and paint, says she knew instantly that this valley was where she would like to stay. She said to Graham "If this was a fairy story we would see a for sale sign" they got to the Pentre turn and there it was, pointing to Pentre farm. They saw it, loved it, enquired about it and found it was sold ... but the sale fell through and finally it was theirs. They planted thousands of trees on the hill and it was the subject of many paintings. Then again ill health prompted a move but certainly not from Chapel Lawn. They both felt it to be "the perfect place with lovely people" to live. Luckily Caradoc came on the market and they were able to move and there they say they will stay. They continue to paint and exhibit and are both very whole hearted about village life. Graham runs the Astronomicals and Ann is involved in the WI and most of the events in the village. If you go through Chapel Lawn you will see an example of Ann's painting within the village sign. They say they both enjoy the village and the village certainly enjoys them!

Jane Kent

Hodre Pond Clean Up



The pond at Hodre has a long and interesting history, which will be covered in a future edition of this newsletter. Since 2006 the pond management and annual clearing has been run by Ian and Liz Campbell, who live almost next to the pond at Lower Hodre.

This year's pond clearance on 10th August saw many willing volunteers in waders or wellies, brandishing rakes, forks and scythes and braving the waters for a couple of hours hard graft. We dug out flag iris, raked out New Zealand pigmy weed and some of us filled our wellies with water. James and Richard brought their tractors and trailers to dispose of the copious weeds in an environmentally friendly way.

To complete the fun we enjoyed Smiling Tree ham with Liz's delicious chilli jam, scones and cakes washed down with beer.

Chapel Lawn Astronomical Group

We have enjoyed a successful year so far. Our midsummer supper was a pleasant evening with twenty-five supporters.

Several talks – one on the Planet Venus; one on Space Missions to the outer planets – Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune were very well received. An observing session in the car park in April, to look at Mercury and the Moon, brought out several telescopes.

On 1st August between 9.30am and 11.30am, telescopes gave us magnificent views of the partial eclipse of the Sun. The weather was for once beautiful and for the three hours of the eclipse we had cloudless skies. The autumn season began with a talk by the 84 year old Frank Barretto; it was to have been on comets, but a couple of days before the talk, his wife had been 'tidying up' and somehow all his slides went missing. He gave a brilliant talk on Super Volcanos on Earth instead.

Forthcoming events (and, please, we welcome anybody, there is no membership – just pay £4 and this will include refreshments): On 30th October, we will have a talk by Martyn Filsak on Aurora – the Northern and Southern Lights. During November we will be looking at Uranus and Neptune as well as Double Stars and star clusters. On 27th November Mike Galleary will give a talk on Messier Objects. Charles Messier was known as the 'ferret' of the comets by King Louis XV. He discovered his first comet in 1764 and virtually all comets for the next 15 years. He died in 1817. During December, apart from our Christmas dinner at The Horse and

Jockey in Knighton, Barry Palmer, our most tenacious hunter of double stars, will be treating us to a feast of the very finest pairs. This will be in the Village Hall car-park using a number of telescopes. Plus hot mince pies! Late January 2009, will begin the New Year with a talk by Graham Mogford on 'Life in the Solar System' in particular the latest landing on the North Pole on Mars.

Contact 01547 530205.

Graham Arnold

Farming Column

British people always talk about the weather with this "summer" being exceptional. The only good point for farmers in the valley was that we have had plenty of grass for grazing. Harvest has been a very slow and expensive one; lots of spare parts for machinery sold. Short bursts of fine weather in late July and late September enabled some hay and corn to be gathered in good condition but I have never seen so much grass ruined and left to rot away and corn crops flattened by the constant rain. Grain was combined so wet at one point it would not run out of the trailers.

Lamb prices have remained firm through the summer and early autumn and finished cattle prices are good now, making more than in 1996 when the BSE crisis closed export markets and kept the trade very low for several years. Corn prices have dropped considerably due to a record world wheat harvest making this winter's

feed bills less expensive but don't expect the supermarkets to drop the price of a loaf of bread.

Wet weather held up the end of harvest with some straw still to be gathered. Drilling of next year's crops was delayed past the preferred planting date, reducing next year's yield.

Farmers generally welcome visitors and walkers on the footpaths over their farms. However, I have had several gates left open with stock escaping into crops, a fence cut and even a chain and padlock cut to gain access to parts of the farm with no paths. Please note I have a Limousin bull that I do not trust so you could be in training for the 2012 Olympics if you are in the wrong field!

James Middleton

Neighbourhood Watch

Our NW representative is Vera Bowen: 01547 530184

Local Police Contact:

if you see anything suspicious

Emergency Contact: 999

Local Dialect Words

More words from the Clun valley:

<i>Ardy-straw</i>	Shrew mouse
<i>Askel</i>	Newt
<i>Bree</i>	Warble fly
<i>Dacky</i>	Piglet
<i>Galleeny</i>	Guinea fowl
<i>Moggy</i>	Suckling calf

Village Ins and Outs

Jim & Christine Rogers

Jim and Christine moved into the Wood House in Chapel Lawn from Eardisley, Herefordshire at the end of July. They are both from an educational background. Christine continues to teach part-time. Jim is now retired from teaching but is developing his computer sales, service and troubleshooting business. They have two daughters; Kirsty, living in Knighton and Laura who is at university in Swansea.

Keith & Helen Munro

Keith and Helen moved into Hither Cwm in Chapel Lawn from Bristol at the beginning of June. They are both from a corporate background.

As well as tending her hive of bees, Helen has three pet rabbits and is also an accredited Bowen practitioner and a Reiki student. Keith is an aspiring author.

Having been together for 12 years, they finally tied the knot this October.

On the day they moved in with their hive of bees Vera Bowen was held hostage in her house for several hours by a great swarm. It turned out that the swarm was nothing to do with Helen's pride and joy but certainly helped them make an entrance!

Wayne Davies & Clare Parkinson

In September Wayne and Clare moved into Lower Splashes, the house they have recently built in Purlogue. Wayne, who comes from Purlogue, works for Natural England and Clare, who comes from Clitheroe, Lancashire, is with Berry's the land agents in Shrewsbury.

Steve & Vi Sherring

Steve & Vi may have moved to Bucknell this summer but they are still very much at the heart of the community in Chapel Lawn.

Village Hall Toilets

The current refurbishment of the toilets, including the installation of a disabled toilet, is due to be completed in mid-November. Until then, keep your legs crossed!

SEASONAL GARDENING NOTES

Onions, leeks, chives, garlic: these are all alliums. There are hundreds more – ornamental bulbs that provide good colours and shapes in the garden throughout the year. Some are tricky to grow, needing an alpine house and a connoisseur's touch to thrive, but most are easy – once planted, all the gardener need do is enjoy them. And now is the time to be planting them. You'll find varieties of them among the bulbs offered at garden centres.

A good small one is Allium Moly, with domes of brilliant yellow flowers in May at 8 inches. For a medium height try Allium 'Purple Sensation', 2 feet tall, with 3 inch diameter globes of deep purple flowers in June. A giant is Allium 'Mount Everest', which has 6 inch white globes atop 4 foot stems. Bury these large bulbs behind lower-growing plants, so that the lollipop flower stems tower above them.

An allium that combines utility with beauty is the Chinese chive, Allium Tuberosum, which has pretty white domes of flowers at 12 inches in September. Like ordinary chives, both flowers and leaves are edible, and taste delicious.

Hannah Willetts

Star Garden in Chapel Lawn

Garry and Cynthia Wall are in the news again. The Shropshire Star recently awarded them first prize for their garden in a countywide competition following an assessment by Roy Lancaster, amongst others. The Walls regularly open their garden allowing all of us the great pleasure of seeing it.

Parish Council

Highway matters: Road improvements to Hodre bank are planned. Protected wild flowers: a list of minor protected roads has been provided.

Planning matters approved: Smiling Tree Farm: erection of extension to dwelling, formation of retaining wall, erection of potting shed and greenhouse, erection of 6kw turbine on 15m tower.

DIARY DATES

Further details can be found on the Chapel Lawn website:
www.chapel-lawn.co.uk

Every Monday

Gun Club 8pm

Every 2nd Wed of the month
WI 7.30pm

Last Thursday every month
CL Astronomicals 7.30pm:
details in separate article

Friday 31st October

Flicks in the Sticks: The Edge of Love 7.30pm Village Hall

Saturday 29th November

Christmas Church Social, Cider & Savouries. Men to provide savouries – they will be judged!

Wednesday 3rd December

WI Xmas Party, Village Hall 7pm

Friday 12th December

Flicks in the Sticks: Mamma Mia 7.30pm Village Hall

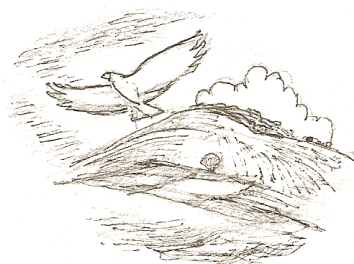
Parish Plan

Thank you to everyone who completed and returned the questionnaire earlier this summer. Disappointingly, only 25% of the questionnaires were returned, although the Chapel Lawn response was more representative of the population distribution than was the Clun response.

Our parish plan will be written over the next few months using this data, together with an earlier consultation. The individual comments will be very useful and help to balance the report as it is written.

If you would like to be involved in the production of the Plan or would like to see the raw data please call Kim Smith on 01547 530504 or email kimsmith@schoolhousecrafts.co.uk.

Kim Smith



Illustrations by Ann Arnold